

**To:** Smith, Paula[Smith.Paula@epa.gov]  
**From:** Russo, Rebecca  
**Sent:** Sat 8/15/2015 5:56:01 PM  
**Subject:** Draft Language for your review

Paula,

I ran this language by Deb T. and Joan last week, but haven't heard back. Now that you're back (yeah!), I think it's better handled by you. We've had a few request from employees asking what to say if asked about GKM when they are at unrelated EPA meetings with stakeholders, the public, etc. Laura drafted this up to potentially send out. What do you think?

Thanks,

Rebecca

Public interest is high and we've been getting a lot of questions from the public about the mine response. The most up-to-date information is available on our website, which I encourage you to share with those requesting information: <http://www2.epa.gov/goldkingmine>

The following language may also be useful to those who need to communicate with the public:

EPA is working diligently to address the Gold King Mine release and help affected communities. Our mission is to protect human health and the environment and we want to assure you that we are working with our partners to expedite the review of data and return to normalcy in terms of using these rivers.

We are also committed to understanding what happened in this event and to learn from it. We have ceased field investigation work at mines unless there is imminent risk and are also initiating an independent assessment to examine the factors that led to last week's incident. Based on the outcome from that assessment, we will determine what actions may be necessary to avoid similar incidents at other sites.

Rebecca A. Russo

Region 8 Congressional and Intergovernmental Liaison

Office: 303-312-6757

Cell: 303-204-1930